

Serial No.: 10/031,654

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 5, 7-14, 16-20 and 32-37 are now pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended herein. Non-elected claims 3, 21-23 and 25-31 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to proceed with filing a divisional application based on such claims. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

***I. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 USC §103(a)***

Claims 1, 4, 16 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Bonnett et al.* in view of *Tillin et al.* Claims 1, 5, 7 and 14 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Tillin et al.* in view of *Bonnett et al.* Finally, claims 32-35 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Bonnett et al.* in view of *Tillin et al.*, and further in view of *Takahashi et al.* Withdrawal of each of these rejections is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to incorporate the features of original claim 4. As amended, claim 1 is characterized by a switchable BTN retarder for converting linearly polarized light of wavelength  $y\lambda$  ( where  $0.7 < y < 1.3$ ) to substantially circular polarised light. The BTN is switchable between a first state in which it substantially converts linearly polarised light to circularly polarised light and a second state in which it does not convert linearly polarised light to circularly polarised light.

Claim 16 is characterized by a switchable retarder in which the BTN retarder is switchable to a state in which the retardation is substantially zero.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4 and 16, among others, as obvious over *Bonnett et al.* in view of *Tillin et al.* In particular, the Examiner relies on *Bonnett et al.* to teach a retarder arrangement comprising two retarders including a switchable BTN retarder. The Examiner relies on *Tillin et al.* simply to teach a linear polarizer.

However, *Bonnett et al.* merely describes that the BTN layer acts as a half wave retarder whose optical axis is switchable (Col. 8, Ins. 51-54). *Bonnett et al.* does not teach or suggest a switchable BTN retarder for converting linearly polarized light of wavelength  $y\lambda$  ( where  $0.7 < y < 1.3$ ) to substantially circular polarised light as recited in

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claim 1. Moreover, *Bonnett et al.* does not teach or suggest a switchable retarder which is switchable to a state in which the retardation is substantially zero as recited in claim 16.

Furthermore, *Bonnett et al.* only discloses that the switchable BTN retarder is a half-wave plate. *Bonnett et al.* does not teach or suggest the BTN retarder is switchable between a first state in which it substantially converts linearly polarised light to circularly polarised light and a second state in which it does not convert linearly polarised light to circularly polarised light as recited in amended claim 1.

With respect to claim 16, *Bonnett et al.* does not teach or suggest a retarder whose retardation is switchable. Therefore, claim 16 is not disclosed or suggested in *Bonnett et al.*

*Tillin et al.* is relied upon only to teach a linear polarizer. *Tillin et al.* does not make up for the above-discussed deficiencies in *Bonnett et al.*

As a result, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 16, and the claims dependent therefrom is respectfully requested.

## **II. CONCLUSION**

Accordingly, all claims are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.


Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

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Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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